UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/EA.I/5

Distr.: General
11 April 2014

Original: English

United Nations
Environment Assembly of the
United Nations Environment
Programme

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme
First session
Nairobi, 23–27 June 2014
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Policy issues

Chemicals and waste management: implementation of decision 27/12

Report of the Executive Director

Summary

The present report has been prepared pursuant to paragraph 1 of section IX of Governing Council decision 27/12, on chemicals and waste management, and describes progress made in the implementation of the decision. It does not provide an exhaustive account of everything done pursuant to the decision, but highlights selected activities and results.

* UNEP/EA.I/1.

K1400647 020514

I. Introduction

1. In implementing paragraph 4 of section I of decision 27/12, and in recognition of the significance of the findings of the Global Chemicals Outlook and its recommendations, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) convened the first meeting of the Global Chemicals Outlook Expert Committee in Geneva in November 2013. The meeting brought together experts from several countries to review and comment on an issue paper outlining research gaps and information needs that could be addressed with further work on the Global Chemicals Outlook.

II. Lead and cadmium

2. In implementing paragraphs 3 and 4 of section II of decision 27/12, UNEP carried out the activities described in the following paragraphs.

3. UNEP continued to implement activities under the Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles that are expected to eliminate leaded petrol globally within the next five years. The Partnership continues, through capacity-building workshops, expert visits and contacts with decision makers, to engage with the six remaining countries still using leaded petrol, namely, Afghanistan, Algeria, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iraq, Myanmar and Yemen. In 2013, UNEP entered into an agreement with a regional partner to support the preparation of a clean fuels road map for the Middle East region that includes leaded petrol elimination in Yemen and Iraq. The Partnership is also following up with Algeria, which is expected to eliminate the use of leaded petrol by March 2014. The secretariat of the Partnership has directly supported over 80 countries in their efforts to phase out leaded petrol.

4. In 2013, UNEP supported a study that compared blood lead levels of people in Nairobi before and after Kenya eliminated leaded petrol in 2005. The tests differentiated between environmental and occupational lead exposure and compared results from studies carried out in 2005 and 2013. For both groups there was a 38 per cent reduction in blood lead levels in the post elimination period.

5. The Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint focused its efforts on the activities described in its business plan, which describes the strategies, milestones and means of achieving the goals and overall objectives of the Global Alliance. The business plan lays out eight priority actions for 2012-2013 and additional actions for 2014–2020 in five focal areas: health, environment, workers' health, legislation and regulation, and outreach to industry. Priority actions in the business plan for 2012–2013 included filling information gaps on the presence or absence of lead paint in the consumer markets of those countries where little or no data is available.

6. Another business plan priority of the Global Alliance was the marking of an international day of action on the prevention of lead poisoning, pursuant to which the Global Alliance held the International Lead Poisoning Prevention Week of Action, which took as its theme the elimination of lead in paint. The Week of Action took place from 20 to 26 October 2013, at which time UNEP finalized and published a report presenting the elements of a national regulatory framework for eliminating lead in paint.[1]

7. Currently there are five Governments contributing either financially or in kind to the Global Alliance: Cameroon, Honduras, Paraguay, Switzerland and the United States of America. The International Paint and Painting Ink Council (IPPIC) has also joined the Global Alliance. Of the current non-governmental organization contributors, five are from Africa, two from North America, two from Western Asia and two from Asia and the Pacific. In total, there are 27 contributors to the Global Alliance.

III. Mercury

8. In paragraphs 2, 6, 9 and 12 of section III of decision 27/12, the Governing Council urged UNEP to undertake several actions on mercury. In response, UNEP undertook the actions described in the following paragraphs.

A. Adoption of a legally binding instrument on mercury

9. A conference of plenipotentiaries was held in Kumamoto, Japan, from 9 to 11 October 2013, with the full support of the Government of Japan, for the purpose of adopting and opening for

[1] See http://unep.org/hazardoussubstances/LeadCadmium/PrioritiesforAction/LeadPaints/FocalAreasofWork/GAELP/tabid/106381/Default.aspx.

signature the Minamata Convention on Mercury. The Convention was adopted by 139 Governments. As at 6 February 2014, there were 94 signatories and one party (the United States of America) to the Convention. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries also adopted a number of resolutions that will govern work to be undertaken during the interim period between adoption of the Convention and its entry into force, with a focus on rapid implementation and entry into force as well as preparations for the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The resolutions are available as the Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries (http://www.mercuryconvention.org/Negotiations/ConferenceofPlenipotentiaries/tabid/3441/Default.aspx).

10. Following a request by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries that the Executive Director provide secretariat services in the interim period, activities are under way to prepare for the sixth session of the intergovernmental negotiating committee as well as to support the group of technical experts established by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries. In implementing paragraph 9 of section III of decision 27/12, the secretariat is organizing a series of awareness-raising workshops on the requirements for ratifying and implementing the Convention. In undertaking all of those activities, the secretariat is seeking opportunities for cooperation and coordination with relevant international bodies, in particular the secretariats of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

B. Immediate action to reduce risks to human health and the environment from mercury

11. UNEP contributed directly to the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership through the provision of secretariat support and an information clearinghouse. Additional support by UNEP in the reporting period is described in the following paragraphs.[2]

12. In October 2013, UNEP published *Mercury: Acting Now*, which contains information on how the UNEP Global Mercury Partnership has supported Governments in addressing the key issues covered by the Minamata Convention on Mercury.[3]

13. UNEP concluded the implementation of a national storage and disposal project in Mexico and Panama in August 2013. Supported by the Government of Norway, the project provided an assessment of relevant national legislation and regulatory frameworks and an inventory of hazardous waste treatment facilities that could serve as temporary mercury storage facilities. The project resulted in national action plans aimed at the environmentally sound storage and disposal of mercury in both countries.

14. UNEP supported Kyrgyzstan in its efforts to reduce environmental and health risks from primary mercury mining in Khaidarkan. With funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the Government of Norway, UNEP is assisting the Kyrgyzstan in its efforts to move from primary mercury mining to alternative sustainable economic activities. Through active awareness-raising activities in 2013, the project has gained support from both the local community and the Government of Kyrgyzstan.

15. UNEP implemented a dental amalgam project in Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) that seeks to phase down the use of dental amalgam in line with the Minamata Convention. The project engaged the national Governments, including health and environmental authorities, as well as dental associations and manufacturers. The project built stakeholder capacity to promote alternatives to dental amalgam and the environmentally sound management of its waste. The project resulted in decreased releases of mercury from dental amalgam to the environment.

16. UNEP held a training of trainers' workshop on the use of the UNEP Toolkit for Identification and Quantification of Mercury Releases in South Africa in December 2013. Experts from 15 regional centres of the Basel and Stockholm conventions were trained. In collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, an e-learning tool is being developed to further enhance the use of the Toolkit. Funded by the European Union, these activities will assist more countries in their efforts to develop national mercury inventories.

[2] Further details of UNEP support for every partnership area is available from www.unep.org/hazardoussubstances/Mercury/GlobalMercuryPartnership/tabid/1253/Default.aspx.

[3] The electronic brochure is available at http://issuu.com/unep/docs/mercury_acting_now?e=1015067/5529776.

17. UNEP convened the second global forum on reducing mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining in Peru in September 2013. The forum highlighted issues relating to the formalization of miners and development of a national action plan for reducing mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining. As a follow-up to the forum, an Andean regional meeting was held in Colombia in November 2013 at which countries identified priority ASGM issues and sought to establish an information exchange platform.

18. UNEP implemented a project funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency on reducing mercury use in ASGM in Indonesia, focusing on technical measures such as distributing mercury recycling equipment to ASGM communities and seeking effective alternatives to mercury-using practices. The project resulted in the reduction of mercury releases by an estimated 3,000 kg in a single year and increased awareness among stakeholders.

19. UNEP implemented a project to reduce unintentional emissions of mercury from coal combustion for electrical power generation in China, India, the Russian Federation and South Africa. The project was funded by the European Union and benefited from technical assistance from the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Geological Survey. With further funding from the European Union and the United States, similar on activities are under way in Indonesia, Thailand and Viet Nam.

20. A global survey supported by UNEP on chlor-alkali facilities provided information on the significant global decrease in the number of chlor-alkali facilities from 140 in 2005 to 81 in 2013.

21. In March 2013, the Ministry of Environmental Protection of China and UNEP organized an inception workshop for a UNEP/GEF project on mercury inventory development in Beijing. Some 45 participants from industry associations (including the China Electricity Council and associations from the chlor-alkali, petroleum, non-ferrous metal and cement industries), the Guizhou, Hunan and Shaanxi provinces of China, the academic community, the Embassy of Norway (which co-finances the project) and the UNEP China office were present and made commitments to the project.

IV. Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

22. In implementing paragraphs 3, 5 and 7 of section IV of decision 27/12, UNEP initiated the actions described in the following paragraphs.

A. Implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management

23. The second report on implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, covering the period from 2011 to 2013, will be presented to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session, to be held in 2015. To prepare the report, the Strategic Approach secretariat launched an online reporting tool for reporting from January 2014 until 31 March 2014. The draft report will be presented for the consideration of the Strategic Approach Open-ended Working Group at its second meeting, in December 2014, and to the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fourth session. The report will provide tangible data for the assessment of the state of implementation of the Strategic Approach.

24. As at 31 December 2013, over $34 million had been made available to the Strategic Approach's Quick Start Programme Trust Fund to fund 154 projects in 104 countries. Projects have focussed on enabling capacity-building and implementation activities, technical assistance in the development of national chemicals profiles and capacity assessments, the development of risk assessment methodologies, the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements on chemicals and waste, the use of non-chemical alternatives and the strengthening of national institutional capacity for sound chemicals management. Project recipients included 54 least developed countries and small island developing States.

25. Following the extension of the deadline for the receipt of contributions to the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund until the fourth session of the Conference, the secretariat opened the thirteenth round of applications for Quick Start funding, during which 35 complete and eligible applications were received. The Trust Fund Implementation Committee appraised the proposals at its sixteenth meeting, held in Vienna on 25 November 2013, and approved funding for four proposals with a combined value of $651,823, including $396,866 for two projects on non-chemical alternatives supported by the Government of France.

26. Considering the revised contribution targets in the Quick Start Programme business plan approved by the Quick Start Programme Executive Board at its eighth meeting, held in Geneva in March 2013, the Committee also approved, or conditionally approved pending the availability of additional funding, 13 projects from Governments with a combined value of $3,094,648. Fundraising for those 13 projects is currently under way.

27. Preparations for the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group and the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management are under way. The former will held from 14 to 17 December 2014 in Geneva and the latter will take place in 2015, at a date and place to be confirmed.

B. Overall orientation and guidance on achieving the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management

28. The International Conference on Chemicals Management is expected to take decisions at its fourth session on the priority actions needed to meet the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management. As decided at the third session of the Conference, overall orientation and guidance on achieving the 2020 goal for sound chemicals management is currently being developed by the Strategic Approach secretariat under the guidance of the Bureau of the Conference.

29. The Strategic Approach secretariat is basing its work on the overall orientation and guidance on a methodology that includes an analysis of the data provided during the second reporting cycle on implementation of the Strategic Approach, covering the period 2011–2013, on the outcome of regional meetings and on a literature review of existing reports. The overall orientation and guidance will be both retrospective, in that it will look at achievements to date and assess gaps, and prospective, in that it will identify priority actions and make recommendations that will define the future agenda for chemicals and wastes with a view to achieving the 2020 goal.

30. Strategic Approach stakeholders have been urged to work together in the development of the overall orientation and guidance and to be prepared to reinforce and strengthen their individual commitments to the 2020 goal at the meeting of the Open-ended Working Group to be held at the end of 2014 and at the fourth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management.

C. Emerging issues and mainstreaming

31. In implementing paragraphs 5 and 7 of section IV of decision 27/12, and in accordance with section F of resolution III/2 of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, on endocrine-disrupting chemicals, UNEP, WHO and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development have developed a workplan, which was presented to the Bureau of the Conference. In accordance with the plan, UNEP has delivered a series of regional awareness-raising workshops back to back with Strategic Approach regional meetings, at which presentations on endocrine-disrupting chemicals have been delivered. Information has been gathered from each region on the state of awareness of the issue as well as any national actions that may have been taken. Work is also under way to establish a network of experts who will be able to contribute to further work on endocrine-disrupting chemicals to address gaps identified in a 2012 report prepared by UNEP and WHO.

32. Since the third session of the Conference, the Global Perfluorinated Chemicals (PFC) Group, led by UNEP and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, has published a synthesis paper on perfluorinated and polyfluorinated chemicals. The paper provides detailed information on PFCs and their industrial uses. It also highlights their negative impact and identifies potential alternatives. The paper is intended to help policy makers as it provides regulatory approaches to managing PFCs and determining key areas of concern.

33. In accordance with section C of resolution III/2, on chemicals in products, UNEP, in coordination with the Chemicals in Products (CiP) Project Steering Group, has developed a workplan for the purpose of developing a CiP programme during the period between the third and fourth sessions of the Conference. The workplan includes both the development of the proposed CiP programme and pilot testing of the proposed programme in one or more priority product sectors. The governing principles and guidance on implementation for the programme are based on principles and guidance adopted in similar voluntary programmes, including the UNEP Principles for Responsible Investment. The proposed structure would include guiding principles for CiP information exchange; a description of stakeholder roles and responsibilities; and guidance on chemicals information exchange.

34. UNEP activities on mainstreaming the sound management of chemicals into national development plans are mainly carried out in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and WHO. The latest project on mainstreaming was initiated in April 2013 in Mauritius. UNEP has finalized a guidance document, entitled "Guidance on the development of legal and

institutional infrastructures for sound Management of chemicals and measures for cost recovery of national administration".

35. Progress was made during the period under review in the UNEP/WHO-led Health and Environment Strategic Alliance to implement the Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa. To date 34 countries have established multi-sectoral task teams and completed situation analyses and needs assessments. Eighteen multi-sectoral projects in seven countries have been developed. The third Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa, to be held in Libreville at a date to be determined, will take stock of progress realized by countries since the adoption of the Libreville Declaration in 2008 with the aim of defining a strategic agenda for accelerating the joint contribution of the health and environment sectors to sustainable development in Africa.

36. Within its African Chemicals Programme to implement the Libreville Declaration, UNEP has initiated a feasibility study for the establishment of an integrated environment and health observatory system for Africa to provide the information needed to effectively reduce chemical risks to the environment and human health. The aim of the project is to develop background information on the design and cost of such a system for Africa.

37. A number of activities described above have South-South cooperation as an important element of capacity-building. Several GEF projects on persistent organic pollutants that are under way build on South-South cooperation as a major capacity-building component.

V. Waste management

38. In implementing paragraphs 1 and 2 of section V of decision 27/12, UNEP has prepared a draft organization-wide strategy for prioritizing its work and making recommendations on existing and future areas of UNEP work on waste. The draft strategy has been completed and is being prepared for publication in advance of the first session of the Environment Assembly.

39. The UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre, in collaboration with the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA), has started work on the development of an assessment of waste management around the world. The Global Waste Management Outlook (http://www.unep.org/ietc/InformationResources/Events/GlobalWasteManagementOutlookGWMO/tabid/106373/Default.aspx) will provide an authoritative overview and analysis of policy instruments addressing the various stages of the waste hierarchy and financing models for waste management around the world. A core team comprising a chief editor, lead authors and case study editors and representatives of various stakeholders and regions has been established. The final draft of the publication is expected to be completed by March 2015.

VI. Persistent organic pollutants

40. In implementing paragraphs 1 and 3 of section VI of decision 27/12, the Executive Director prepared documents on PCB (UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/5 and UNEP/POPS/COP.6/9) and DDT (UNEP/POPS/COP.6/INF/3 and UNEP/POPS/COP.6/4) for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention.

41. In its decision SC-6/6, on PCBs, and decision SC-6/1, on DDT, the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention welcomed the decision by UNEP to assume the administration and implementation of the PCB Elimination Network and the Global Alliance for the Development and Deployment of Products, Methods and Strategies as Alternatives to DDT for Disease Vector Control. The Conference also invited UNEP to report to it at its seventh meeting, to be held in 2015.

42. In addition, the decision on DDT invited UNEP, in consultation with WHO, the DDT expert group and the Convention secretariat, to prepare a road map for the development of alternatives to DDT and to present it to the Conference at its seventh meeting.

43. In its decision BC-11/3, the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention invited UNEP to prepare, in consultation with a small intersessional working group, draft technical guidelines for the environmentally sound management of wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with unintentionally produced dibenzo-p-dioxins, polychlorinated dibenzofurans, hexachlorobenzene, pentachlorobenzene or polychlorinated biphenyls.

44. On the occasion of the second simultaneous extraordinary meetings of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, an information meeting on the PCB Elimination Network was held on 6 May 2013 and the second meeting of the Assembly of the Global Alliance was held on 7 May 2013. The members of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the

Stockholm Convention were invited to nominate the regional representatives to the Network and the Alliance to begin their terms by 1 January 2014.

45. UNEP continues to cooperate with the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the World Health Organization and partners in implementing environmental and human health monitoring projects in developing country regions to enable parties to the Stockholm Convention to report on the presence of persistent organic pollutants in their countries. Reports were issued during the period under review on the concentrations of persistent organic pollutants in air and human milk. The data were collected through the first round of projects funded by GEF and the Strategic Approach Quick Start Programme and revealed that concentrations of DDT were the highest for both matrices. The highest risk for humans, however, based on pools of mothers' milk from 84 countries, was posed polychlorinated dibenzodioxins, dibenzofurans and biphenyls (PCDD, PCDF, PCB). The performance of persistent organic pollutant laboratories is discussed in a report entitled *Biennial Global Interlaboratory Assessment on Persistent Organic Pollutants – Second Round (2012-2013)*. Projects to contribute to the second phase of the global monitoring plan for the evaluation of the effectiveness of the Stockholm Convention, such as the sixth round of the human milk survey, were launched at the second simultaneous extraordinary meetings.

46. Finally, UNEP, with funding from the Global Environment Facility, is assisting 38 parties to the Stockholm Convention in the preparation of their second national implementation plans. The plans – to be completed in 2015/16, will demonstrate progress in the management and reduction of persistent organic pollutants in those countries.

VII. Enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals and wastes cluster

47. In paragraph 2 of section VII of decision 27/12, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to continue to facilitate and support a consultative process on the challenges to and options for further enhancing cooperation and coordination in the chemicals and wastes cluster in the long term. In implementing that paragraph, UNEP held the first meeting in the consultative process in Pretoria on 19 and 20 November 2013. The meeting allowed for Governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations and private sector entities to engage in a constructive and open dialogue on how a stronger and better-coordinated management of the chemicals and wastes cluster could be achieved in the long run. Participants were able to identify a broad range of elements and possible steps that might improve the coordinated management of chemicals and wastes and enhance the ability to respond to new and emerging issues and challenges at the global, regional, national and local levels.

48. A second meeting in the consultative process was held from 25 to 27 February 2014 in New York. In accordance with paragraph 2 of section VII of decision 27/12, the meeting participants reached agreement on an outcome document to be submitted to the Executive Director, with the expectation that the Executive Director would submit a report on the outcome of the process to the United Nations Environment Assembly for consideration at its first session. The report of the Executive Director is set out in addendum 2 to the present report.

VIII. The consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes

49. In implementing paragraph 8 of section VIII of decision 27/12, UNEP convened a workshop in Nairobi in July 2013 entitled "Mainstreaming Sound Management of Chemicals into National Plans". The workshop participants developed a road map for the initial stages of the sound management of chemicals for 25 developing countries in Africa. They also considered how to mainstream development plans based on the integrated approach through knowledge of environmental and health effects and their associated economic effects.

50. In response to paragraph 9 of section VIII of decision 27/12, the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their second simultaneous extraordinary meetings in May 2013 adopted an omnibus decision on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the three conventions. Paragraphs 26–29 of that decision address cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention on Mercury and section VII of the decision, on facilitating financial resources for chemicals and wastes, welcomes the integrated approach and calls for actions to implement it.

51. In response to the invitation in paragraph 12 of section VIII of decision 27/12, the Assembly of the Global Environment Facility at its meeting to be held in May 2014 on the sixth replenishment, will

consider a proposal to amend the GEF instrument to change the GEF focal area for persistent organic pollutants and ozone-depleting substances to a focal area for chemicals and wastes covering the broader chemicals and waste agenda, including the Minamata Convention on Mercury and the Strategic Approach.

52. In paragraphs 13–16 of section VIII of decision 27/12, the Governing Council called for the development of terms of reference for a special programme, funded by voluntary contributions, to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach and requested the Executive Director to facilitate and support a country-led meeting to further develop such terms of reference.

53. In response, a meeting to develop such terms of reference was convened in Bangkok from 27 to 30 August 2013. Following extensive negotiations, the meeting participants agreed to the terms of reference for the special programme, although some text remained in square brackets to indicate that agreement on it had not been reached.

54. The meeting participants further agreed that the meeting Chair, Mr. Alf Wills (South Africa), would submit an edited version of the terms of reference to the Executive Director for consideration by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its first session. The terms of reference are set out in addendum 1 to the present report.

IX. Final provisions

55. In section IX of decision 27/12, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director to present a report on progress in the implementation of the decision to the governing body of UNEP at its next session and invited Governments and others in a position to do so to provide extrabudgetary resources for the implementation of the decision.

56. Capacity-building activities funded through extrabudgetary resources at the country level are integrated into most of the above-mentioned initiatives and projects. The most prominent areas in this regard are Strategic Approach implementation by countries; mercury; the elimination of leaded petrol and lead in paint; persistent organic pollutants; mainstreaming of sound chemicals management into national plans; and waste management projects.

57. The activities described in the present progress report would not have been possible without the generous support of Governments in the form of both earmarked and unearmarked funding for activities on lead and cadmium, mercury partnerships, the negotiation of the Minamata convention, Strategic Approach implementation, waste and persistent organic pollutants, as well as the consultative process on enhancing cooperation and coordination within the chemicals cluster and the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes.

58. GEF has also provided funding for a number of the activities described, with regard to matters such as lead and cadmium, mercury, chemicals in products and persistent organic pollutants.

59. To ensure progress in the 2014–2015 biennium, further extrabudgetary funds will be needed for specific activities and programmes in areas such as mainstreaming sound chemicals management into national plans; elimination of lead in paint; mercury; Strategic Approach implementation; waste management and persistent organic pollutants as described in the programme of work for 2014–2015. In addition, a number of international meetings will require extrabudgetary resources, including meetings of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to prepare a legally-binding instrument on mercury, the International Conference on Chemicals Management and the Strategic Approach Open-ended Working Group.